

REMARKS

At the time of the Final Office Action dated November 15, 2006, claims 1-10 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 1-9 have been rejected. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claim 10 is allowable.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, Examiner Pitaro's courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephonic interview on November 28, 2006, during which the present Office Action was discussed. It is Applicants' understanding that, based upon the Examiner's further investigation, all the present claims are directed to statutory subject matter.

THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the claimed invention, as recited in claims 1-9 is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants position is that the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the imposed rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Accordingly, and in view of the

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foregoing remarks, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 09-0461, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Date: December 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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